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Sumter National Forest Collaboration Workshop
April 19th & 20th, 2012
Newberry, South Carolina
Day One

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Welcome and Introduction:

> Cadre introductions by Ashley Goldhor-Wilcock.
> <u>Workshop objective</u>: Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and be able to walk away with tools to get projects done via collaborative efforts.

SECTION I:
Opening Exercise: Headlines
Imagine the best and worst "headlines" of a newspaper in the year 2032

BEST HEADLINES OF 2032
- Dean Fletcher UGA: "FS and Collaborative Agencies consolidate land ownership to protect several large drainage systems".
- Elyse Benson: "All schools public institutions have converted to biomass fuel giving land owners ready stable markets"
- US forest service determined to be the friendliness land management in providing outdoor recreation activities to users.
- Columbus Stevens: "Protection"
- JR Kirkaldie: world peace and environmental sustainability restoration fully achieved, world hunger solved, " etc.
- Brian Schaffleur: SC piedmont region receives nation wide recognition for collaboration"
- Gary Peters: First elk season opens in Newberry County"
- Cory Drennan: piedmont natural landscape restored. Jobs everywhere.
- Lauren: collaborative agreements promote extensive land preservation and greenways"
- Charles Jennings: "forest land in counties create jobs"
- Steve Compton: SC eliminates fire ants"
- Jim Knibbs: "piedmont quality of life"
- John Tynan: "natural resources now regions economic driver in restoration"
- Amanda Ley: "no water quality impairments in SC"
- Sam LeRoy: "son wins Nobel peace prize due to work in forestry"
- Michelle Burnett: "Piedmont Restoration collaborators celebrate 20 years of success"
- Donny Ray: "President Chelsea Clinton announces US no longer dependant on foreign oil"
- Chris Evans: "Quail and Turkey Populations Out of Control. Hunkers Needed"

WORST HEADLINES OF 2032

- Wallace Wood: "National forest sold to Chinese due to national debt"
- Russell Hubright: "Studies shows SC forests nearly destroyed by pine beetles"
- Paul Bradley: "mismanagement of forests results in death and pestilence"
- Mae Lee Hafer: another strip mall along highway"
- Mike Bozzo: "Last state forest mill closes"
- Brian Schaffleur: "SC Piedmont does not receive nationwide recognition for collaboration".
- "Erosion continues to increase"
- Mary Morrison: "Cogongrass Population Reaches All Time High"
- Scott Howard: "Gold Discovered in Charlotte stream".
- Beth LeMaster: "Piedmont, the Forgotten Landscape, Youth Packing Bags"
- Erica Wise: "Keep Trash off the Roads and the Forests"
- Gregg Wahl: "Sensitive Lands Developed and Paved Over"
- Teresa Grissom: " no greenery on national forests; lands closed to public"
- Donny Ray: "50% unemployment in small towns in region"
- Jeff Magniez: "Societies lost appreciation for natural resources

SECTION 2:
Organizing for Collaborative Action Introduction:
- **Scanning the Situation**: What is and what has been; economic, trends, historic relationship between stakeholders, political, etc. Then being able to take in that information and have solid groundation of understanding of assets, players, history, etc. in the collaborative situation. Thinking about who has assets that you might want to draw on, who has funding, who has people?
- **Identifying Values and Principles.** Values: different folks have different values. They can be as basic as having a frank and honest conversations, respect for listening, commitment, also values associated to the land. Principles: important because we think about them in terms of how we're going to interact. How are we going to agree to work together?
- **Clear Expectations and Commitments**: Who What When How Where. What are we focused on? How are we going to do it? What are our procedures going to be? What is going to be involved? Where is the funding coming from? Clear and up front about how we are all going to work together.
- **Monitoring process**: A way of making sure everyone s on the same page. What the commitment, responsibilities and goals are. Checking in and making sure they are all still viable. Does flexibility need to happen? Also, retention of key participants is important or setting up agreements or terms with each other with how it is we want to operate than it is transferrable and not dependant on a single person and dependant on they're departure, etc.

Stories/Examples Applying these Collaborative Principles:
- **Susan Hansen**: From community perspective it is important to have clear expectations and commitments. Community and county officials were not aware of constraints on agencies and had greater expectations on the agencies. Likewise, the

agencies had similar misconceptions about the community's parameters. **Delineate and clarify. Decision Space:** be clear about what this is, in terms of the agency. Parameters where we can work within.

SECTION 3:
Summary Report on the February Listening Sessions:
- The Cadre comes to the communities and designs the workshop specific to the communities needs. That's the point of the listening sessions. We explore the communities "lay of the land". Successful or non-successful collaborations of the past, how can we learn from them, what are issues, concerns, and interests, etc.
- The Listening Sessions set the stage for the next two days:
- History of the Landscape
- Today's Landscape:
  - Fragmented Landownership resulting in historical land use.
- Socio-Economic:
  - Primarily Rural
  - Timber primary economic driver
  - Overall sense there are opportunities
- Examples of Successful Collaboration:
  - Indian Creek
  - Kudzu
  - SC Horsemen Council
  - Clemson University
  - Partnership for Blue Ridge
- Opportunities:
  - Define desired outcomes of Piedmont Ecologically
  - Apply watershed-based approach to improve water quality.
  - Manage invasive species across jurisdictions
  - Coordinate education and interpretation opportunities surrounding ecological issues.
  - Educate and manage for prescribed fires
  - Restore native plant communities
  - Integrate resource management with social and economic opportunities
- Challenges:
  - Need to identify incentives or economic return
  - Fragmented landscapes
  - Resource constrains
  - Potential conflicts between protecting natural resources and promoting tourism/recreation
- Diversity of groups.
- Groups were working independently rather than working collaboratively and that is an opportunity we can explore today.

- One thing to think about collaboratively: the Unknowns. Politically or naturally. Hurricane's, etc.   In certain circumstances, because there was a history of collaboration in some regions, they were able to mitigate litigations, difficult contracts, etc   Jobs were created easier, tax revenue, savings in future disasters, etc. When you begin to collaborate you know what may happen but you'll have these relationships to draw upon in case of these occurrences happen.
- Make sure not to pit the humans against the environment. The blue of these collaborative efforts is to dissipate the natural human action to not trust

SECTION 4:
Visions of the Piedmont – a roundtable conversation
We may all have different visions of what the Piedmont region should look like. Can we start coming up with visions surrounding the Piedmont in order to begin generating some ideas for future projects?

Paul Bradley's Vision: The Piedmont should have basically endless healthy forests across the landscape. Got to define two of those terms.
- **A Healthy Forest:** A healthy forest is not over stocked, has sustained growth, not subject to fire, it can sustain a fire without being destroyed, providing water, wildlife, no invasive species.
- **An Endless Forest**: In an endless forest, you can see through the forests and it looks like they go on forever; also they are here today and will be here tomorrow.

Jim Edwards: I'm an outsider looking in. Retired, using those resources for recreation. Look at our national forests as a quality of life standpoint. To illustrate that quality of life, the comment by Roy Rodgers and Ronald Reagan in which, "there is something about the outside of a horse, that causes peace on the inside of a person" explains it. I get very peaceful when I'm out on my horse and I ride the trails of the NF of SC. It goes beyond, I also like to kayak the rivers through the NF of SC, I love to hike those trails, so I think it's not the horse that gives to me the inward peace and quality of life, there is something greater. It's the environment the natural forests, the trees the water the soil the wildlife. And it can bring me more peace when the environment is enjoying its best health. For it to enjoy its best health I have to give back to it as it gives to me. I think that collaborative effort is there. The forest will give to me if I give to the forest and those who maintain the forest.

Wallace Wood: Background: worked for 32 years at Clemson University as an Extension Agent in natural forest education. Worked with private landowners, etc. Lots of interaction with landowners. Live on McCormick county, farm on Stevens Creek. Surrounded by national forest. When I look at the forest: hiking, fishing, kayak, horse riding, and love the outdoors. That's the quality of life for me.
When I think about restoring the piedmont, a lot of things come to mind: what do we restore it to? In 1724 Flora and Fauna of the Carolina's. Book written about Europeans first arrival and what they saw. According to the book, it was mostly prairie land, and scattered trees with 12-18 inches of topsoil. What should the NF look like? National

Forests need to contribute to the economies both from timber production and recreation standpoints. Good Forest management promotes wildlife diversity and quality of life. Thinks the forest is overstocked with wildlife. Timber management promotes wildlife and a healthy forest.

Gary Peters: Worked 34 years for the Forest Service and recently retired to work for the National Wild Turkey Federation. A general consensus: number one influence on the Piedmont throughout is people. The largest impact, longest living impact than anything else in Piedmont. Ecosystems are elastic. They can adapt, change, and come back. Until you break the elasticity, a new ecosystem will replace it. In SC and Piedmont is an ecosystem that is gone from the 1800s ecosystem. Grass is the fastest building cover crop. Natures response to a big gap, in the Piedmont, depleted soils, agriculture lands, we're not going to get back the rich forests we think we might get back because the soils not there. We put trees on it in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, but that's not what was here. We have to go through the next evolution of restoration efforts to get the piedmonts soils established better.

This is a working landscape; it can never be a place where wilderness reigns. It's gone, what it can be is a place where people can live with resources that support people and wildlife, and give stable economic resource. Grasses need to be growing, soil building process.

Group Visions:
1. Healthy Forests that support quality of life and Economic development to include clean water, wildlife habitat, aesthetic recreation and timber products.
2. Healthy, active, and sustainably managed landscapes that provide financial, environmental and quality of life benefit to our communities.
   a. (Key difference is the wording of *active* management).
   b. Move from protection standpoint to a promoting standpoint. As a group we have to actively promote the land.
3. Healthy, diverse forestlands, which are <u>valued by</u> and <u>support</u> local communities.
   a. How do you get communities to value their forests?
4. Environmentally and economically sustainable landscape that is litter free, coupled with education, community involvement and collaboration that is dedicated to improving quality of life for its citizens.
5. Create an environment, working landscape that is desirable on the Piedmont by putting some of the pieces back together through a collaborative effort of all interested stakeholders. Team Renovate.
   a. Looking forward, renovating environment since we can't go back to what it was.
6. Working across boundaries to balance the needs of nature with the needs of man.
   a. Less is more.
   b. Boundaries have many meanings. It's not just about NF it's about the entire landscape. It can also mean diversity, values, and principles. Balance: productivity, social, economics, spiritual, etc.

<u>Group thoughts about the visions:</u>

- Forests and landscape distinction is important to note.
- Consistency of themes is clear.
- Importance missing in the visions: no reference to educate.
- We have to look at the vision as a community. Without diversity in the economy out of the Piedmont, it's an uphill battle. View the community holistically.

SECTION 5:
Scanning the Situation: Mapping the Piedmont Landscape Management and Restoration Situation:

Generating a shared understanding of the Piedmont landscape situation. This afternoon work teams will be chosen. We can better understand any landscape, any community, or any problem around natural resources in terms of its major aspects.

What needs to be put on the situation map to better complete this picture?

SECTION 6:
Identifying issues on the Piedmont that need work: Assessing their collaborative potential.

Management Actions, Specific Tasks, Ways to get at some of the things written on the Situation Mapping. What specific actions and tasks are right for collaboration? What can we do now? What can we do later? Gather the ideas on the board, and vote what seem most viable.

Trails and Recreation Opportunities
- Maintenance of trails and facilities, Safe experiences, etc.

Develop techniques for public land outreach and private land outreach
- Developing incentives for forest restoration for private and public land
- Cash for restoration and protection.

Treat and control non-native invasive species
- Plants
- Animals
- Across ownership boundaries in priority areas (based on ecological values)
  - Chinese privet in a river flood plain-Priority area example: floodplain in which there is an occurrence in endangered plant species exists.
  - Cogongrass -Need collaborative efforts to look for it on all lands and inventory.

Harvesting trees across boundaries
- Job creation
- Promoting
- Ecological help
- Get private investors involved
- Promote forest health

Water Quality & Quantity
- Incentives
- Reducing Agriculture and Urban Runoff pollutants
- Structural factors

Storm Response
- Ice storms, wind events, etc.
- Volunteers

Increasing landscape level burns across ownership
- Public and private landscape level burns
- To reduce invasives
- And improve conditions on forest floor.

Reducing wildfire risk
- Through prescribed burning or mechanical
- Fuel treatment.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

- Fire wise community education

Best Management Practices
- Educational
- BMP (Best Management Practices)

Increase Timber Harvest on Natural Forest System Land
- Increase forest health.
- Selective cutting, but the sick trees, fewer trees per acre, opening up the canopy.

Public Policy advocacy to prioritize management objectives on public land.
- If laws or legislation are needed to ensure management is funded and implemented.
- Regulation.

Increase Volunteer Efforts
- Maintain trails

Restoring short leaf pine
- Cut out because of leaf disease. Symptom of poor soil.
- Used to be the tree of the savannah throughout the Piedmont.
- Friend of fire. Would help with fire ecology.
- Short leaf is a healthier pine.

Inventorying the watersheds
- Assessing problem areas, etc.
- Amanda Ley has suggestion: Department of Health and Environment Education go to Water tab, then the Watershed tab. Watershed assessment documents: breaks down where we used to monitor and still do now. What's in the area of land use, water quality, projects happening in the area, etc.

SECTION 7:
Identified Groups of Issues:

1. **Education, Public Awareness & Public Policy**
2. **Recreation**
3. **Invasives**
4. **Watershed**
5. **Fire**
6. **Economic Development**

ASSET MAPPING (Surrounding six groups)
   ***Continued on Asset Mapping Document**